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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois are pleased to recognize the dedication of the restoration of the Prairie Mills Windmill and the 20th anniversary of the Golden Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Construction of the Prairie Mills Windmill began in August 1872, under the direction of Henrich R. Emminga, a German immigrant who settled in the region in the 1850's, with completion of the first story in September 1872; the upper stories and tower section were completed in April 1873; two sets of lava burr stones were ready for use in September 1873, with the grinding of mill foods beginning shortly thereafter; the mill was used in the manufacture of buckwheat, flour, rye and graham flour, cornmeal, and ordinary mill feeds; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 1878, H.H. Emminga bought his father's interest in the mill and remained the sole owner until his death on December 9, 1915; the mill was then operated as the Golden Elevator and Mill Company; in March 1922 the mill was taken over by the Consolidated Cereal Company; in March 1923, F.B. Franzen became the sole owner; and

WHEREAS, On February 9, 1924, a strong wind tore off two of the four sails; operations were later discontinued altogether; the mill would eventually open over the years in various incarnations; it stood vacant until March 1956 when Gerald and Leota Brady purchased the mill from John Schuster and operated a tavern in the lower story; after 11 years, Leota Kindhart sold the mill to John Leenerts who operated it as a supper club; and

WHEREAS, The mill was sold to Eldon Golden in 1976; in 1986, upon hearing that the mill might be sold to another community, a corporation was formed to purchase the windmill

1 property, thus beginning the Golden Historical Society; the
2 Golden Historical Society would go on to restore the Prairie
3 Mills Windmill and preserve prairie history; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we recognize the dedication of the restoration of the Prairie
7 Mills Windmill and the 20th anniversary of the Golden
8 Historical Society; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the Golden Historical Society as an expression of
11 our esteem.